

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

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FOLLOWING REPEATS GENEVA 0723 ACTIONDEPT INFO SAIGON JEC PARIS
USUN BERN VIENNA FEB 5TH

QUOTE

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VIENNA FOR USDEL TO CONFERENCE ON STATES/IO RELATIONS

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: ICRC, PARM, VS, VN
SUBJECT:PRG ISSUE AT LAW OF WAR CONFERENCE

REF: GENEVA 0706

1. AFTERNOON FEBRUARY 5 THERE WAS CIRCULATED IN
CONFERENCE NEW ALGEIRAN RESOLUTION THAT WOULD PROVIDE
THAT "ALL THE PARTIES IN THE CONFLICT IN SOUTH VIETNAM
THAT HAVE ACCDED TO THE GENEVA CONVENTIONS OF 1949
SHOULD BE INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE CONFERENCE AS
OBSERVERS." ALGERIA TOOK FLOOR AND SAID PREVIOUS
DRAFT (WHICH IDENTICAL EXCEPT FOR THIS OPERATIVE
SECTION) (SEE GENEVA 603) WITHDRAWN.BALKEN (FRG),
WHO WAS CHAIRMAN OF AFTERNOON MEETING, SINCE OTHERS
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HAD REFUSED TO TAKE CHAIR, SAID MATTER WOULD BE

DISCUSSED FEBRUARY 6.

2. USDEL MADE POINT OF ORDER THAT CONFERENCE HAD DECIDED THAT "QUESTION OF PARTICIPATION OF SOUTH VIETNAM IN THE CONFERENCE" REQUIRED TWO-THIRDS VOTE TO BE OPENED (SEE REFTEL) AND REQUESTED CHAIRMAN TO RULE THAT TWO-THIRDS THEREFORE REQUIRED BEFORE THERE COULD BE ANY DISCUSSION OF NEW ALGERIAN DRAFT. BALKEN SO RULED. SOVIETS CHALLENGED RULING. RULING WAS SUSTAINED BY VOTE OF 40 IN FAVOR OF CHALLENGE, 44 OPPOSED TO CHALLENGE, WITH 24 ABSTAINING AND 30 ABSENT. FULL BREAKDOWN OF VOTE FOLLOWS SEPTTEL.

3. THIS DECISION CLOSES EVERY PROCEDURAL AVENUE OF ANY PROMISE WHICH IS OPEN TO PRG PROPONENTS EXCEPT PERHAPS ONE. SOVS. HAVE MENTIONED POSSIBILITY OF AMENDING RULE 32 OF RULES OF PROCEDURE TO REMOVE QUESTIONS OF PARTICIPATION FROM AMBIT OF THAT RULE. IT IS TOO SOON TO KNOW WHETHER THEY WILL HAVE THE STOMACH FOR ANOTHER EFFORT.

4. CONGRATULATIONS TO DEPARTMENT AND ALL POSTS FOR CRITICAL AND MOST EFFECTIVE SUPPORT.DALE
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